SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) The Government has not come across any report in "The Hindu" of 4th July, 1995, regarding boats of Indian fishermen being sunk by the Sri Lankan Navy in high seas on Rameshwaram coast. The Government is, however, aware that 5 Indian fishing boats were allegedly attacked and sunk by the Sri Lankan Navy on 8.7.95.

(b) In separate incidents, Indian fishing boats RMS-982 with 5 crew members, RMS-635 with 4 crew, RMS758 with 5 crew, RMS-1966 with 4 crew and MDM-393 with 4 crew members were reportedly attacked by the Sri Lankan Navy on 8.7.95 resulting in the sinking of all 5 boats. All the crew members were rescued by other Indian boats passing by. It is alleged that the first boat was attacked around Dhanushkodi, while the other four were attacked around Kachchativu area..

(c) The matter was strongly taken up with the Sri Lankan authorities through diplomatic channels. The Coast Guard regularly patrol the Indian side of the International Boundary Line in the waters between India and Sri Lanka; they maintain a continuous surveillance and caution the Indian fishermen against straying into Sri Lankan waters.

Consumer Grievance Redressal Machinery of MTNL

1663. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "for whom the inflared Bills Toll" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 24th July 1995;

(b) whether the existing procedure for investigation of complaints is time consuming and causing inconvenience to the subscribers;

(c) whether there is no effective grievance redressal machinery within the MTNL to benefit the subscribers and their inflated bills are invariably turned down in a stereotyped manner, compelling them to go to Courts/ Consumer Fora; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating any simplified and time bound procedure in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information has been called for and will be laid on the Table of the House.

फरुखाबाद को रेल लाइनों द्वारा इटावा से जोड़ने के लिए सर्वेक्षण

1664. प्रो. [illegible]म बख्श सिंह वर्मा: क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश में फरुखाबाद को इटावा से जोड़ने के लिए कुछ समय पूर्व रेल लाइन बिछाने के लिए एक सर्वेक्षण किया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस सर्वेक्षण के प्रतिवेदन का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार उस प्रतिवेदन के आधार पर नई रेल लाइन का निर्माण करने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री सी. के. जाफ़र शरीफ़): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति के लिए तेल कम्पनियों को निर्देश

1665. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी. सोलंकी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को रसोई गैस के वितरण के लिए अधिक कारगर प्रणाली तैयार करने और उसे लागू करने के लिए तेल कम्पनियों को निर्देश जारी किए हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो अब तक इसके क्या परिणाम प्राप्त हुए हैं,

(ग) क्या सरकार ने रिलायंस इंडस्ट्रीज लिमिटेड को राजकोट और जामनगर में रसोई गैस की आपूर्ति पाइप लाइन के माध्यम से करने का निर्देश दिया है,

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ङ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कैप्टन सतीश शर्मा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) सरकार ने बहुमंजिली इमारतों में घरेलू उपभोक्ताओं को पाइपलाइन के माध्यम से एल पी जी की

आपूर्ति किए जाने की संभावनाओं का पता लगाने के लिए सरकारी तेल कम्पनियों को सलाह दी है। तेल कम्पनियां श्री के संबंध में अध्ययन कर रही हैं।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ङ) निजी कंपनियां अपने निर्णय स्वयं लेती हैं।

Criteria for appointment of distributors for petroleum products

1666. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some criteria for appointment of distributors for marketing of petrol products like LPG, Kerosene and LDO has been prescribed;

(b) if so, the details thereof with formalities required in this regard;

(c) whether some reservation has been provided for appointment of such distributors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof separately for General, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Unemployed, War Widows and Cooperative Societies categories, productwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) As per existing policy, appointment of dealers/distributors is made through the process of advertisement of locations included in the Marketing Plans, and selection on the basis of interviews by Oil Selection Boards of candidates meeting eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, residence, income and multiple dealership norms. Reservation is provided for the following categories as under:

SC/ST	—	25%
PH	—	7½%
Defence	—	7½%
FF	—	3%
Outstanding Sports persons	—	2%
Open	—	55%

In the 'Open' category, Consumer Cooperative Societies are given preference over Unemployed graduates/Unemployed Engineering graduates and others.

Villages without Post Box

1667. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether post boxes for one lakh villages are proposed to be installed; and

(b) if so, the number of villages without a post box and by when all the villages will have a post box?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The State-wise number of villages without letter boxes is given in the annexed statement (*See* below). The Government's policy is to provide letter boxes in all the villages having a population of 500 or more during the Eight Five Year Plan. There are 63703 such villages without letter box as on 31.03.1995.

Statement

Villages without letter box as on 31.3.1995

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	No. of village without letter boxes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	481 *
2.	Assam	11354
3.	Bihar	47486 *
4.	Delhi	—
5.	Gujarat	352
	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—
	Daman & Diu	—
6.	Haryana	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	11378
8.	J & K	2920
9.	Karnataka	10376
10.	Kerala	
	Lakshadweep	—
11.	Maharashtra	
	Goa	11584 42
12.	Madhya Pradesh	38241 *
13.	North East	
	Arunachal Pradesh	3104 *
	Manipur	1064 *
	Meghalaya	3968 *
	Mizoram	288 *
	Nagaland	598 *
	Tripura	2274 *